IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	:	Carsten Sorensen
Appln. No.	:	10/696,972
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For	:	AUTOMATIC SUPPLIER SOURCING
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Examiner: Carrie A. Stroder

INTERVIEW AGENDA

SENT VIA FAX TO (571) 270-8119

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

During the interview scheduled to take place on July 14, 2011 at 1 PM ET/ 12 PM CT, Applicant's Representative would like to discuss the following:

I.   Independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references

    a.   The cited Hajmiragha and Beran references do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination:

        -downloading an RFQ generation engine to a requester where the engine is used at the requester to enter job information into an RFQ template;

        -an RFQ template is saved in a data store local to a computing system at the requestor or that a reply to an RFQ template is received at the requestor and automatically based on the award criteria in the RFQ template; or

        -an RFQ template having a plurality of fields comprising a category field, a job description field for the requested job, an award criteria field indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier, a date of delivery field, and an expiration date field indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ.

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II.   Independent claim 38 is patentable over the cited references

     a.   The cited Hajmiragha and Beran references do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination:

          -receiving an RFQ template at a supplier computing system describing a requested job from the RFQ index builder, the RFQ template being generated by a manufacturer;

          - an RFQ template being generated by a manufacturer and including: a category and description of the requested job, an award criteria for the requested job, a date of delivery field, and an expiration date of the RFQ; or

          -using an RFQ reply engine at the supplier computing system to generate a reply to the RFQ template" and "transmitting the reply from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer that generated the RFQ template

III.   Independent claim 45 is patentable over the cited references

     a.   The cited Hajmiragha and Beran references do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination:

          - providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system or saving an RFQ template in a data store local to the manufacturer computing system; or

          - an RFQ template having a plurality of fields including a job category field, a job description field, a delivery date field, a location field, and an award criteria field, or receiving award criteria into an award criteria field of an RFQ template indicative of criteria considered by the manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier.

       The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

                       Respectfully submitted,

                       WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

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CLAIMS PENDING (FROM RESPONSE FILED JUNE 27, 2011

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier to the requester, the method comprising:

    providing supplier registration information from the requester to a registration component;

    downloading an RFQ generation engine to the requester;

    after the RFQ generation engine is downloaded to the requester, using the RFQ generation engine at the requester to enter the job information into a predetermined RFQ template, the RFQ template having a plurality of fields comprising:

        a category field,

        a job description field for the requested job,

        an award criteria field indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier,

        a date of delivery field, and

        an expiration date field indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ;

    using the processor to save the RFQ template at a predetermined location in a data store local to a computer system at the requester; and

    using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the computer system of the requester;

    receiving, at the requester, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

    automatically evaluating the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template and identifying a supplier based on the evaluation.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester and

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including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier to the requester, the method comprising:

    entering the job information into a predetermined RFQ template, wherein the job information is entered into the RFQ template by the requester and comprises:

        filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template,

        an expiration date of the RFQ,

        a category and description of the requested job, and

        an award criteria;

    using the processor to save the RFQ template; and

    using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the computer system of the requester;

    receiving, at the requester, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

    evaluating the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 13 wherein sending indexing information comprises:

    sending requester filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template.

15. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 11 and further comprising:

    receiving a reply to the RFQ template from a supplier.

16. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 15 wherein entering the job information comprises:

    entering award criteria indicative of criteria considered in awarding a job corresponding to the RFQ to a supplier.

17. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 16 and further comprising:

    evaluating the received reply based on the award criteria; and

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suggesting a winning supplier based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

18. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 17 wherein evaluating comprises:
weighting the award criteria according to a predetermined weight.

19-37. (Cancelled)

38.   (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method that employs a processor, the method comprising:
registering with an RFQ index builder;
receiving an RFQ template at a supplier computing system describing a requested job
from the RFQ index builder, the RFQ template being generated by a manufacturer
and including:
a category and description of the requested job,
an award criteria for the requested job,
a date of delivery field, and
an expiration date of the RFQ;
using an RFQ reply engine at the supplier computing system to generate a reply to the
RFQ template by providing information requested in the RFQ template; and
transmitting the reply from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer that
generated the RFQ template.

39.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further including filter criteria accessible by the suppliers to identify RFQs for reply.

40.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a geographic location for the service provider.

41.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

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42.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

43.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for quantity of goods.

44.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for quantity of goods.

45.   (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ) indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services by a supplier to a manufacturer, the method comprising:

        providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system, the RFQ template having a plurality of fields for receiving job information pertaining to a requested job, the plurality of fields including:

                a job category field,

                a job description field,

                a delivery date field,

                a location field, and

                an award criteria field;

    receiving award criteria into the award criteria field indicative of criteria considered by the manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier;

    saving the RFQ template in a data store local to the manufacturer computing system;

    sending indexing information for the RFQ template.

46.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the plurality of fields in the RFQ template further comprises an RFQ expiration date field.

47.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the

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plurality of fields in the RFQ template comprises a supplier pre-designation field, and wherein receiving job information comprises receiving manufacturer filter criteria into the supplier pre-designation field indicative of particular suppliers that are authorized by the manufacturer to reply to the RFQ template.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, and further comprising:

  sending manufacturer registration information from the manufacturer computing system to a registration component; and

  downloading the RFQ generation engine to the manufacturer computing system, wherein the RFQ generation engine sends the index information to a remote index component over a network.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the category including a code.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the RFQ template further including a quantity of goods.